

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-29 are pending, all claims having been amended.

In the non-Final Office Action of September 28, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 5, 7, 8-9, 14-17, and 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention; and rejected claims 1-29 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,775,715 to Madany et al. ("Madany").

**Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph:**

On page 2 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 5, 7, 8-9, 14-17, and 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant amended the claims to address all of the problems pointed out by the Examiner. These amendments were made to correct antecedent basis issues but the scope of the claims has not changed and the scope of the claims is not narrowed as a result of the amendment related to the Section 112 rejection. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 5, 7, 8-9, 14-17, and 27-29 be withdrawn.

**Rejection of Claims 1-29:**

On page 4 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-29 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Madany. Applicants submit that the amended claims obviate the rejection.

Amended independent claim 1 is directed to a method of improving compression of data. The method includes, among other things, arranging the data on a mixed format

physical layout having a plurality of fixed-sized fields, a plurality of variable-sized fields and a plurality of offset slots, where the fixed-sized fields are of a first size and the offset slots are of a second size.

Madany is directed to compressing units of clusters utilizing holes (see Abstract).

Madany fails to disclose or suggest arranging the data on a mixed format physical layout having a plurality of fixed-sized fields, a plurality of variable-sized fields and a plurality of offset slots, where the fixed-sized fields are of a first size and the offset slots are of a second size, as required by claim 1.

Because Madany fails to disclose each and every limitation of the claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by Madany and respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1 and are not anticipated by Madany for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Amended independent claim 10 is similar to claim 1 and is not anticipated by Madany for at least reasons similar to those discussed with respect to claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 10 be withdrawn.

Claims 11-16 depend from claim 10 and are not anticipated by Madany for at least the reasons provided with respect to claim 10. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 11-16 be withdrawn.

Amended independent claim 17 is directed to a method for retrieving compressed data. The method includes, among other things, receiving compressed data on a mixed format physical layout responsive to a request, wherein the mixed format physical layout comprises a plurality of fixed-sized fields, a plurality of variable-sized fields and a plurality of offset slots, the fixed-sized fields being of a first size and the offset slots being of a second size.

Madany fails to disclose or suggest a mixed format physical layout comprising a plurality of fixed-sized fields, a plurality of variable-sized fields and a plurality of offset slots, wherein the fixed-sized fields are of a first size and the offset slots are of a second size, as required by claim 17. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 17 be withdrawn.

Claim 18 depends from claim 17 and is not anticipated by Madany for at least the reasons provided with respect to claim 17. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 17 be withdrawn.

Amended independent claim 19 is directed to an apparatus for improving compression of data. The apparatus includes, among other things, means for arranging the data on a mixed format physical layout having a plurality of fixed-sized fields, a plurality of variable-sized fields and a plurality of offset slots, the fixed-sized fields being of a first size and the offset slots being of a second size.

Madany fails to disclose or suggest such a feature. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 19 be withdrawn.

Amended independent claim 20 is directed to an apparatus for retrieving compressed data. The apparatus includes, among other things, means for receiving the compressed data on a mixed format physical layout responsive to the request, wherein the mixed format physical layout comprises a plurality of fixed-sized fields, a plurality of variable-sized fields and a plurality of offset slots, the fixed-sized fields being of a first size and the offset slots being of a second size.

Madany fails to disclose or suggest such a feature. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 20 be withdrawn.

Amended independent claim 21 is directed to a compressible computer medium including a plurality of instructions. The instructions include, among other things, instructions to cause a computer to perform arranging data on a mixed format physical layout

having a plurality of fixed-sized fields, a plurality of variable-sized fields and a plurality of offset slots, where the fixed-sized fields are of a first size and the offset slots are of a second size.

Madany fails to disclose or suggest such a feature. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 21 be withdrawn.

Claims 22-29 depend from claim 21 and are not anticipated by Madany for at least the reasons provided with respect to claim 21. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 22-29 be withdrawn.

### CONCLUSION

Having addressed all rejections of claims, Applicant respectfully submits that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Amendments to the Drawings:**

Applicant respectfully requests that Fig. 5 be corrected as indicated in red in the annotated sheet attached herewith. Applicant also attached a corrected copy of Fig. 5.

**Attached:**

- 1 Annotated Sheet including Fig. 5
- 1 Corrected sheet including Fig. 5



FIG. 4

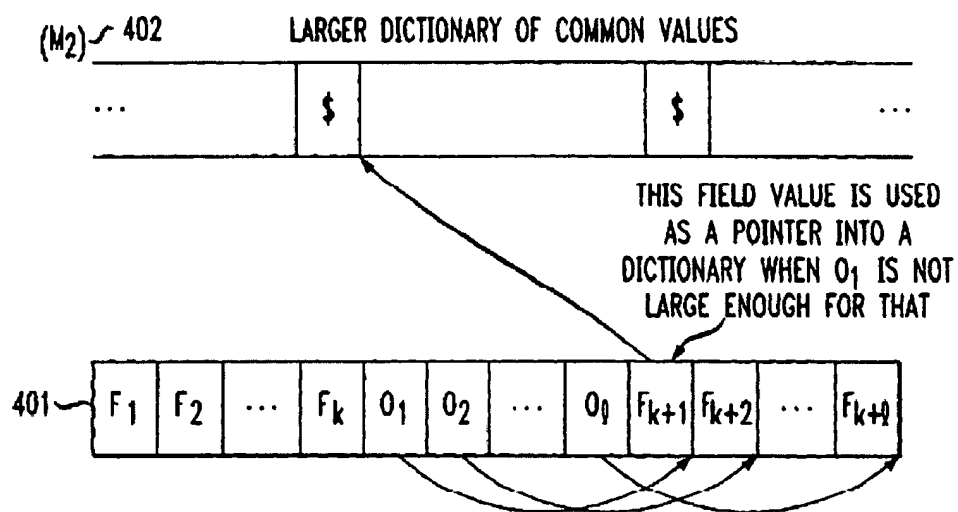


FIG. 5

IN EXCEPTIONALLY LARGE VALUE F<sub>1</sub>' FOR F<sub>1</sub> IS STORED AS AN EXTRA VARIABLE-SIZED FIELD. F<sub>1</sub>, THE FIXED SLOT FOR IT, IS USED TO STORE THE OFFSET POINTER TO TERMINATE F<sub>1</sub>'.

